

Prince William Sound Commercial and Noncommercial Tanner Crab Fisheries Management



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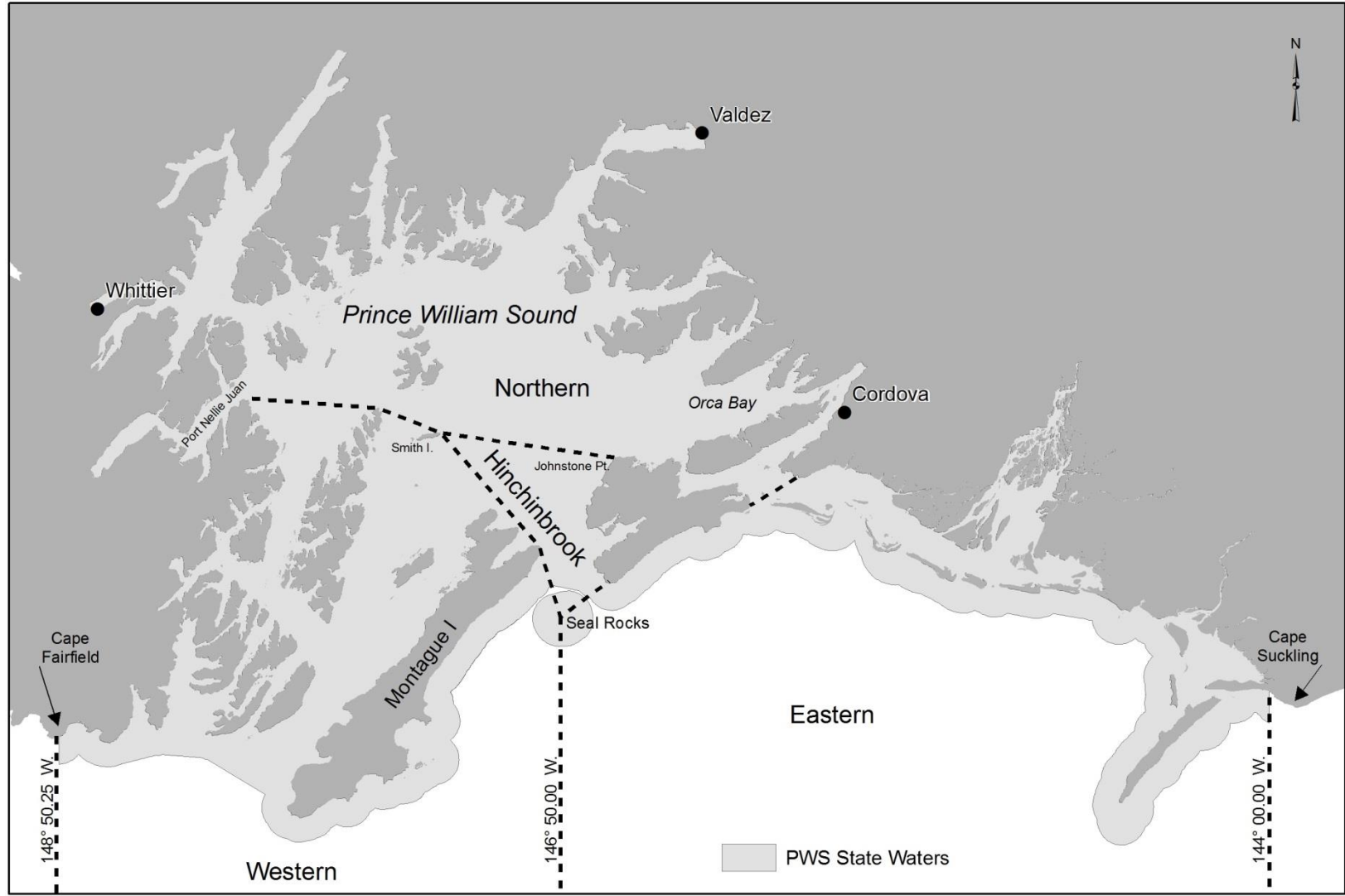
This oral report can be found in RC 3; Tab 12

Presentation Outline

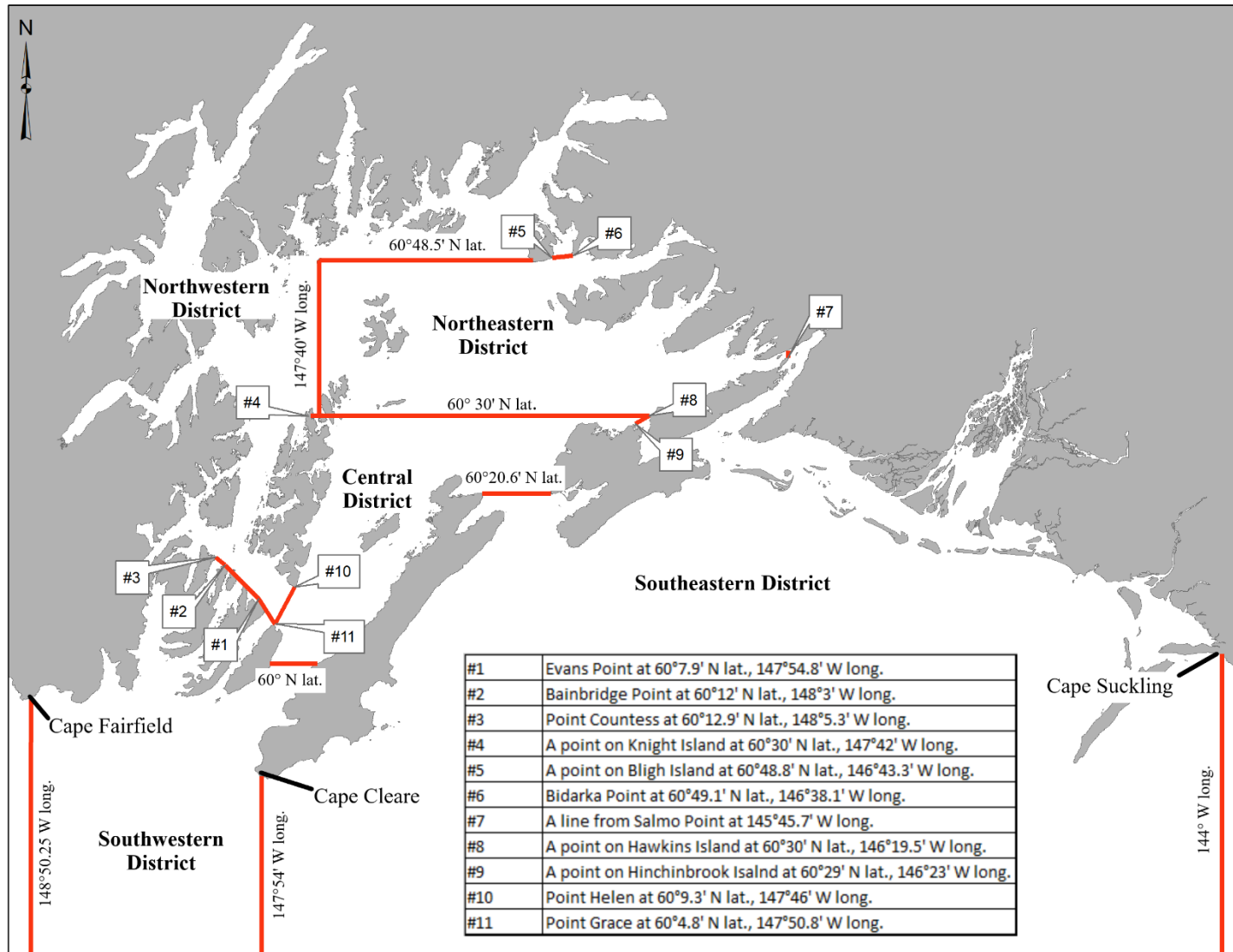
- Commercial fishery
 - Historical
 - Commissioner's permit fishery
 - Test fishery
- Subsistence fishery
- Management timeline overview
- Board of Fisheries proposals



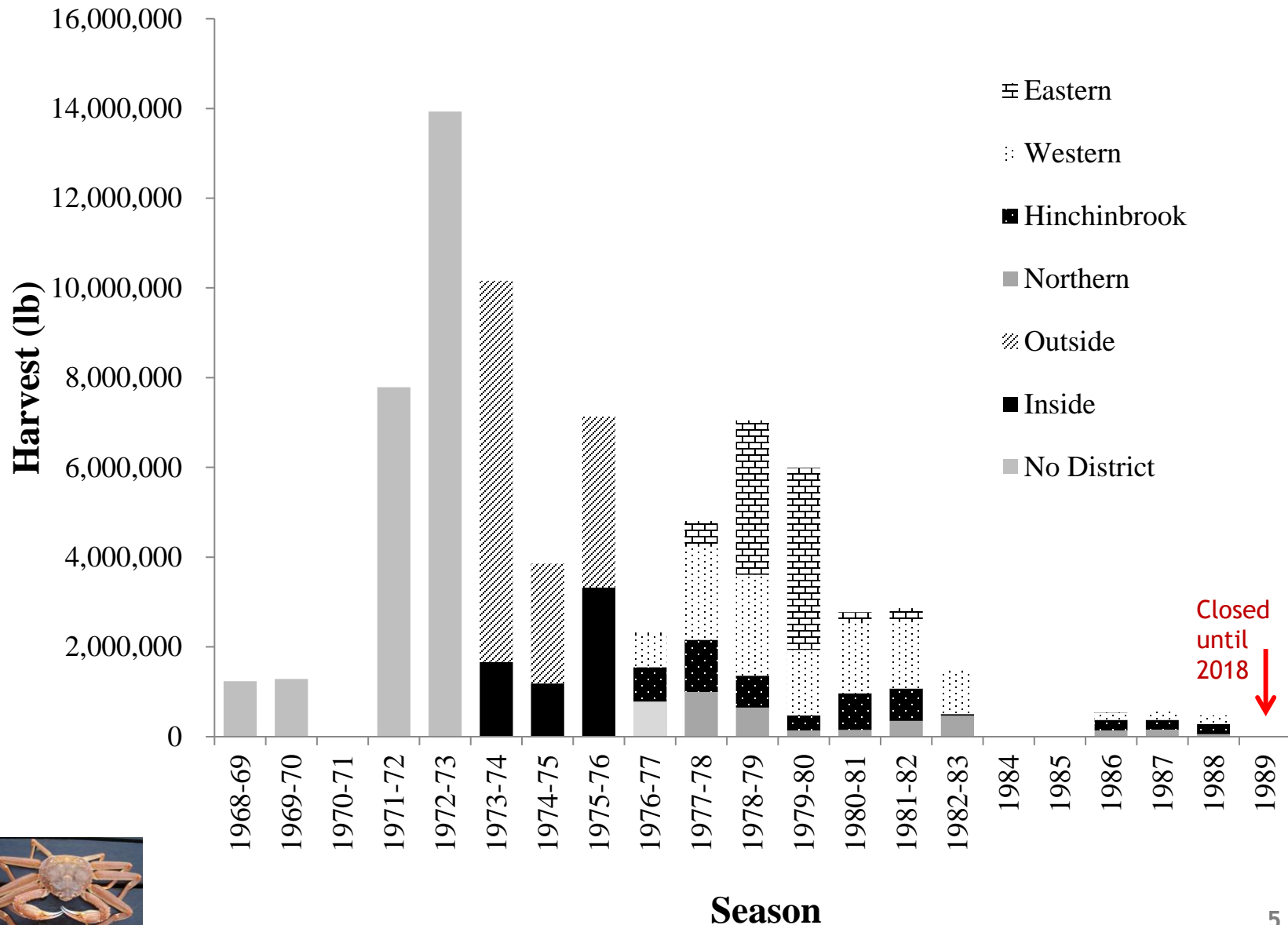
Current PWS Commercial Shellfish Fisheries Districts



Proposed NEW PWS Commercial Shellfish Fisheries Districts



PWS Commercial Tanner Crab Harvest and Effort



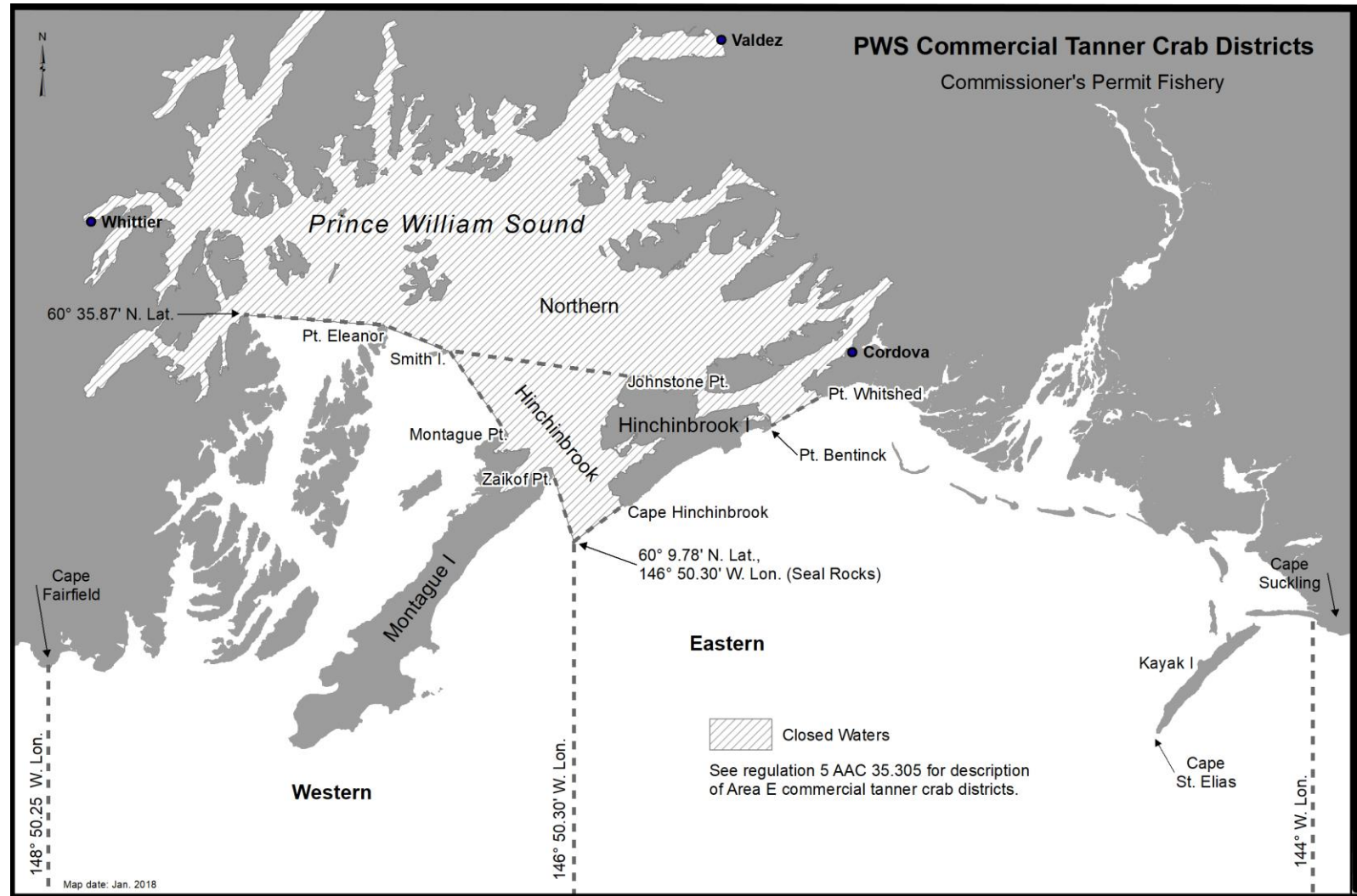
BOF Regulatory Action in 2017

PWS Tanner crab

- Harvest strategy for PWS – thresholds
 - required by 5 AAC 35.080
- Legal size reduced to 5.0 inches
- Commissioner's permit fishery in Eastern and Western Districts
 - mostly areas not covered by survey
 - could open without thresholds being met in harvest strategy
- Subsistence bag limit increased to 12



PWS Tanner Crab Commissioner's Permit Fishery



PWS Tanner Crab Commissioner's Permit Fishery

Permit Elements

- March fishery
- Eastern and Western Districts
- CFEC permit
- Mandatory daily call-in
- Registration deadline
- Weather delay provision
- Pot limits
- Size limit – 5.0 inches
- Established market
- Logbook
- Gear check



PWS Commissioner's Permit Tanner Crab Fishery

Harvest and Effort

Year	Pot Lifts	Harvest (# of crab)	Harvest (lb)	CPUE (crab/pot)	Vessels
2018	3,736	47,394	83,338	12.7	14
2019	4,841	74,407	124,707	15.4	14
2020	5,885	64,557	108,859	11.0	22
2021	2,923	33,803	56,351	11.6	10
Average	4,346	55,040	93,314	13.0	15

Important notes: 2019 - most fishing moved to outside areas of PWS, 2018 – 486005 closed after 2 weeks, 2021 multiple stat area closures, pre and within season



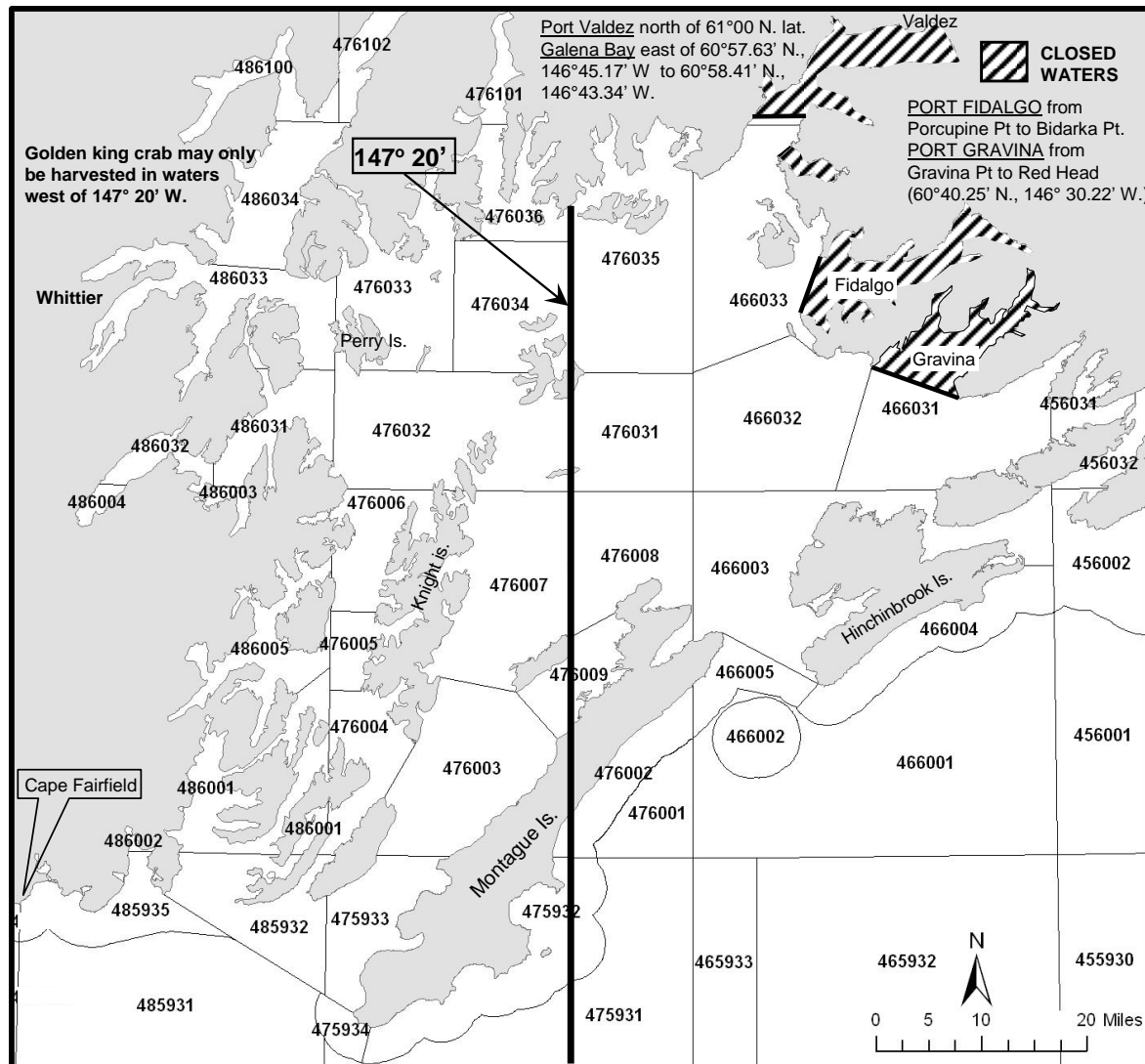
PWS Subsistence Tanner Crab Regulations

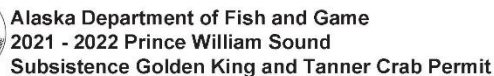


- October 1 – March 31
- 12 male crab ≥ 5.0 inches
- 2 pots per person and vessel
- Permit requirement
- Tanner crab nursery areas closed



PWS Subsistence Tanner Crab Statistical Areas





Permit Number

☐ Alaska Resident

Last Name

First Name

M.J.

Vessel Name

Mailing Address

(Mark "None" if you fish from someone else's vessel)

City

State

Zip Code

Phone Number

Driver's License #

State

E-Mail Address



Names of other household members authorized to fish this permit:

This permit is valid during the PWS subsistence crab season which is October 1, 2021 through March 31, 2022.

- 1) This permit must be in your possession while taking or transporting golden king or Tanner crab in the Prince William Sound Area.
- 2) One permit may be used by all household members (persons having the same residence) named on the permit.
- 3) Each person fishing may only harvest his or her individual bag or annual household limit.
- 4) Only whole crabs may be removed from a vessel.
- 5) Information must be recorded in ink in the spaces below prior to leaving the fishing site or concealing the crab from view.
- 6) If more than one permit holder is aboard the vessel, only one should report the number of crab released.
- 7) You must report your harvest ONLINE (<https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/harvest>) by April 15, 2022, even if you did not fish.

If you fail to report your harvest ONLINE before April 15, 2022, you will be ineligible to receive a permit the following season.

Record every day you fish, even if you didn't catch anything

☐ Check here if no one named on this permit fished this season.

Tanner Crab Catch Log Daily Bag and Possession Limit = 12
Legal male Tanner crab per household member fishing

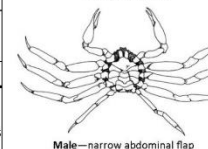
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Golden King Crab Catch Log Annual Household Limit = 3 legal males

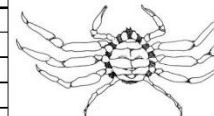
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Please continue on another piece of paper if you need more lines for the Tanner crab catch log. Report harvest online before April 15, 2022.

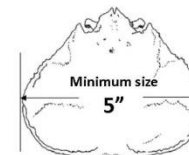
Tanner crab



Male—narrow abdominal flag



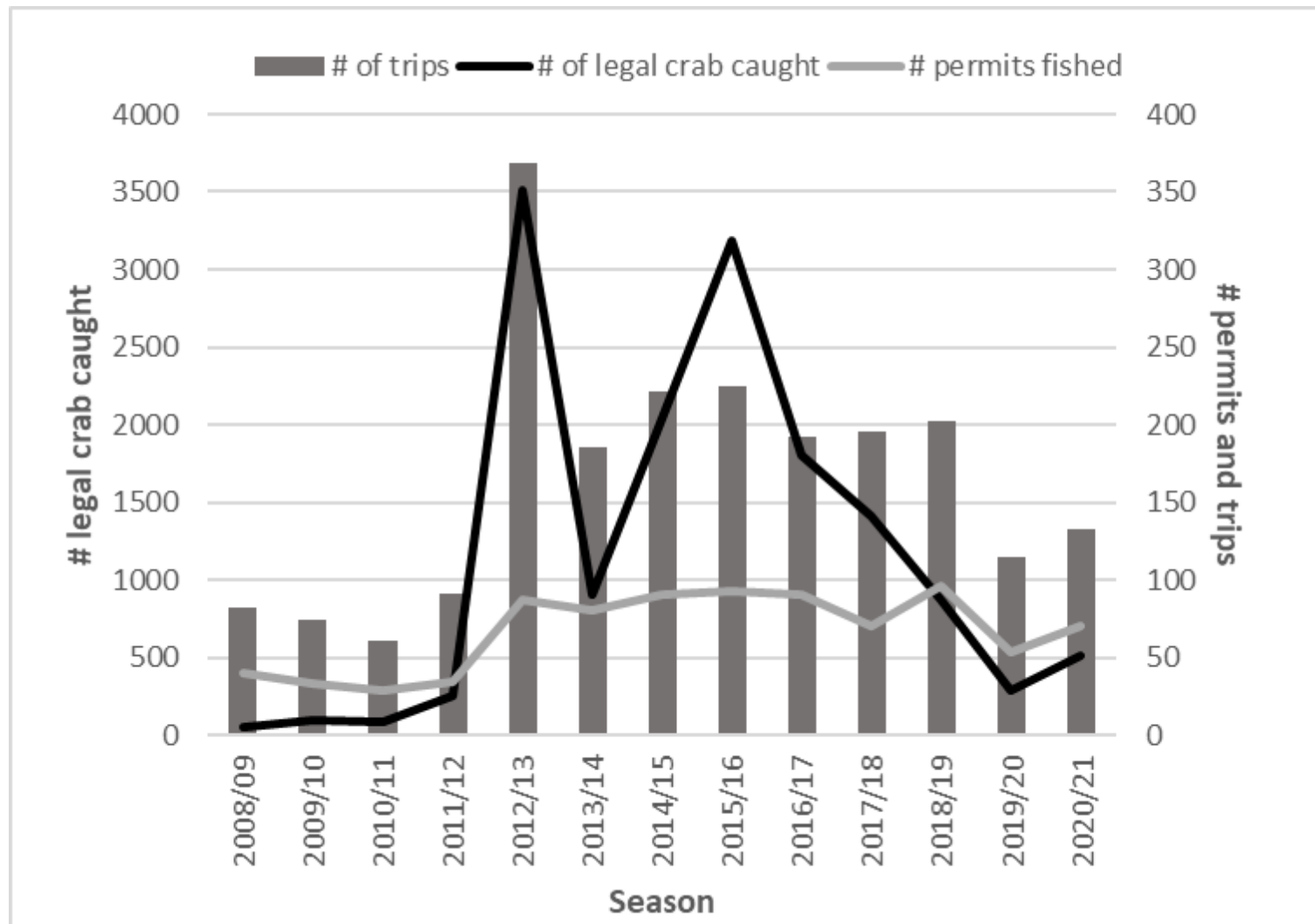
Female—wide abdominal flap covers most of underside (females usually smaller than 5")
NO HARVEST ALLOWED



Width measurement of Tanner crab is the straight-line distance across the carapace, including spines.



PWS Tanner Crab Subsistence Permits, Catch, and Effort



History of C&T and ANS Findings for PWS Tanner Crab

Customary and Traditional (C&T) Use Findings

- 2008: positive C&T finding for shrimp, Dungeness crab, Tanner crab, king crab, miscellaneous shellfish (5 AAC 02.208(a))
- 2008: Subsistence Tanner crab fishery opened
- Postponed ANS finding until harvest record could be established through permit

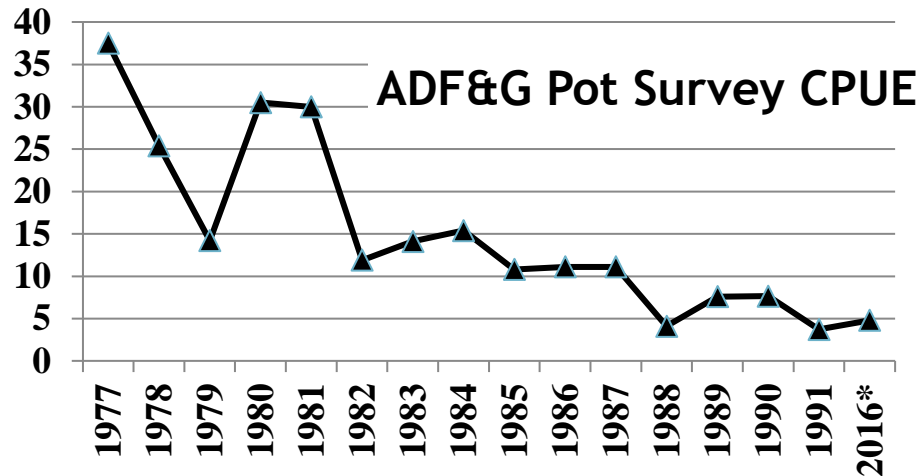
Proposal 68: Amount Necessary for Subsistence (ANS)

No ANS adopted to date for PWS Tanner crab - Support adoption



2016 PWS Tanner Crab Test Fishery

- One vessel
- Limited coverage
- Only 158 out of 400 ADF&G pot locations were surveyed
- Traditional pot locations



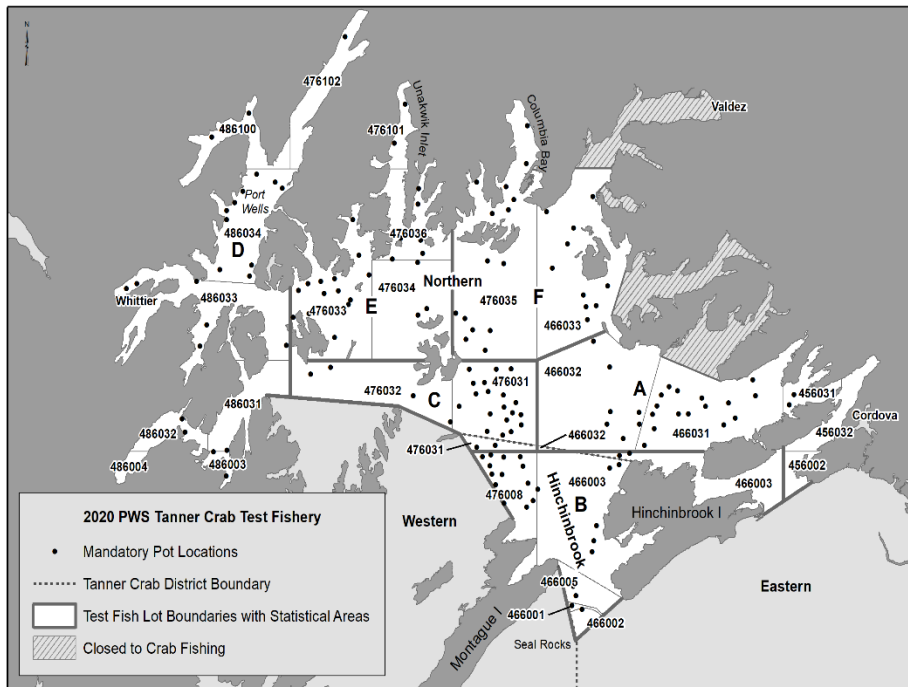
2020 & 2021 PWS Tanner Crab Test Fishery

- Surveying outside of the Commissioner's Permit Fishery area
- Collect info about legal male catch rate, male size comp, distribution of Tanner crab in area of the Northern and Hinchinbrook districts.
- Request for quotations (RFQ) for test fishery – February
 - 6 Lots (2020) and 5 Lots (2021) – 5,000 lb per Lot
 - Each Lot - 25 mandatory pot locations, the rest captain's choice
 - Observers aboard most trips
 - Port sampling for unobserved trips

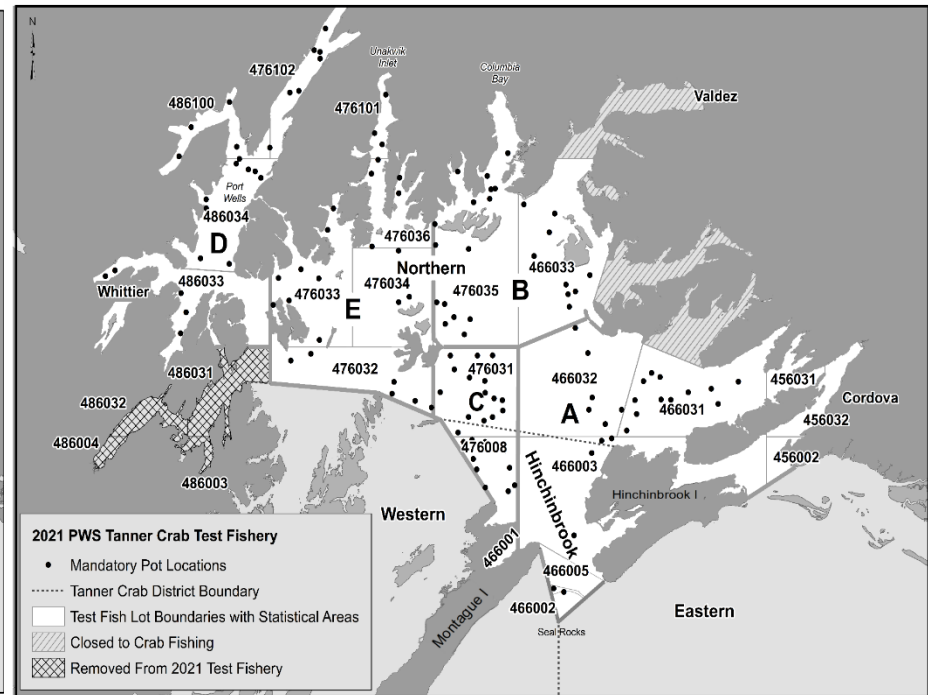


PWS Tanner Crab Test Fishery Pot Locations

2020

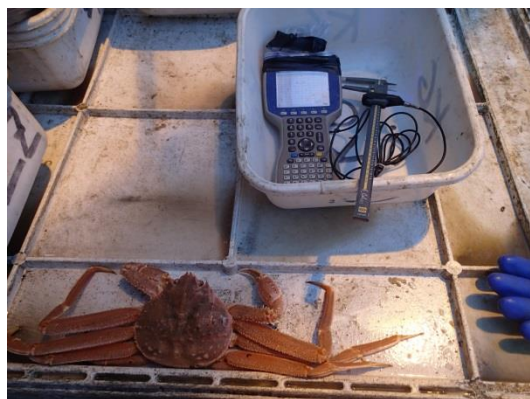


2021



PWS Tanner Crab Test Fishery Results

Year	Lots	Pot Lifts	Harvest (# of crab)	Harvest (lb)	CPUE (crab/pot)
2020	6	796	12,917	23,771	16.2
2021	5	552	8,368	15,910	15.2



PWS Tanner Crab

Management Timeline

- 1968/69-1970/71 – Tanner crab fishery develops
- 1971/72-1979/80 – High harvests, most years above 6 mil lb
- 1980/81-1988 – Declining harvests
- 1989 – commercial fishery closed
- 1999 – subsistence fishery developed
- 2008/09- subsistence permit required
- 2016 – Exploratory test fishing
- 2017 – Soundwide harvest strategy adopted into regulation based on survey and thresholds, Commissioner's Permit fishery in the Eastern and Western Districts (untrawlable area- no survey) may occur
- 2018 -2021 – Commissioner's Permit fishery prosecuted, most of the harvest occurs offshore.
- 2020 – 2021 – Test fishery in untrawlable areas with mixed results.
- 2021 – Harvest strategy proposal based on new areas, new analysis and reconstruction, with an expanded survey; ANS options



PWS Golden King Crab

- Commercial fishery that was closed in 1989 because of low abundance and decreased size
- Current subsistence fishery with small bag and annual limit
- Department survey from 2004 - 2006 pot survey-low levels of GKC
- Test fishery conducted November 2020 showed low levels of GKC
- No indicators from Tanner crab fishery of GKC recruitment (bycatch information)
- Proposal 63 – 76 - Public proposals GKC



PWS Sea Cucumber

- Reports for the last 5 years of sea cucumber presence in PWS by divers who have been participants in SE fishery
- Relayed latitudes and longitudes to shellfish area manager
- May through August 2021 – area manager and team conducted transect in defined locations using SE sea cucumber assessment methods
- Graduate student – thesis project on sea cucumber stock assessment in PWS
- 2022 Saltonstall-Kennedy grant application for extensive stock assessment in PWS
- Potential for future funding through existing statute if harvestable surplus is identified
- Opportunity to develop a new fishery in PWS based on solid methods and collaboration with commercial divers in the process. Plans to continue research for stock assessment in the spring.
- Proposal 61 and 62 – establish sea cucumber commissioner's permit fishery in PWS



A wide-angle photograph of a majestic mountain range under a clear blue sky. The mountains are rugged, with significant snow cover on their peaks and upper slopes. In the foreground, a calm, deep blue lake reflects the sky. The lower slopes of the mountains are covered in dense, dark green coniferous forests. The overall scene is serene and natural.

Questions?